



# JOINING FORCES FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN

## A State Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children

A Joint Effort by



The Family Court of  
the State of Delaware

and



The Delaware  
Children's Department

**November 1 - 3, 2006**  
Dover Downs Hotel and  
Conference Center

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### Speakers



#### Abuse Intervention Committee

The Abuse Intervention Committee was created in 1988 by then Delaware Attorney General Charles Oberly. The group was formed to address the need of coordination amongst various disciplines throughout the state that intervened with child abuse investigations.

#### Susan Badeau

Susan Badeau has been a child welfare professional for twenty-six years. Currently a policy consultant, from 2002 – 2005, Ms. Badeau served as the Deputy Director of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care. She has also worked in direct services in adoption and foster care in both public and private agencies. She writes extensively on topics related to children, particularly those with special needs. A lifelong child advocate, she completed a one-year Kennedy Public Policy Fellow in the office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV in Washington, D.C. where she had the opportunity to work on policies that impact the lives of children and families. Susan and her husband are the parents of 22 children, two by birth and 20 adopted. They have also served as foster parents for more than 50 children in three states, and as a host family for refugee youth from Sudan, Kosovo and Guatemala.

#### The Honorable Kathleen Blatz

Chief Justice Blatz is the Former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. She served as a trial judge for the Fourth Judicial District (Minneapolis) and an Assistant County Attorney. As a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, she served on several committees. Chief Justice Blatz is a member of the Minnesota State and Ramsey County Bar Associations.

#### The Honorable William Byars, Jr.

Judge William Byars, Jr. is the Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. Prior to this position, he served as Director of the Children's Law Office at the University of South Carolina School of Law and as a Family Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. He has received several awards and honors for his work. The Judge has spoken in over 25 states at conferences on legal issues involving children and families and has appeared as a commentator on numerous news shows and in foundation documentaries on children and family issues.

#### The Honorable Robert Coonin

Judge Coonin became an Associate Judge of the Delaware Family Court in 2001 and serves as the Administrative Judge for the "Criminal, Delinquency and Children and Families at Risk" unit in New Castle County. Judge Coonin has participated in many national conferences and continuing judicial education programs.

#### Susan Cycyk

Susan currently works as the Division Director at the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Division of Child Mental Health Services. She has worked with several nonprofits over the last 30 years. Ms. Cycyk has received a Lifetime Achievement award from the American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services as well as the Service Award from the National American Rehabilitation Association in 2001.

#### Sgt. Randy Fisher

Sgt. Randy Fisher began his career with the Delaware State Police in September 1984. He spent seven years in the Special Investigations Unit in Kent County as a Drug Detection Canine handler and undercover detective. Randy was then promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to Troop 3 as a Patrol Supervisor and later the supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit. In 2005, he became a Statewide Domestic Violence Policy/Training Coordinator.

#### Mariann Kenville-Moore

Mariann has been with the Department of Justice since 1999 as the Director of Victim Witness Services. Prior to coming to the Department, she was employed by the Delaware Division of Family Services in various capacities for over 14 years. Mariann received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Delaware and her Masters Degree in Social Work from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

#### Laura Miles

Laura Miles has served as the Deputy Director of the Division of Family Services for the last five years. Laura has worked for the State of Delaware for the last 21 years as a Regional Administrator, Social Service Administrator, Supervisor and Social Worker/Case Manager with both the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. Laura is a 1992 recipient of the State's highest award to a state employee, the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

#### Dr. Marsha Miller

Dr. Marsha L. Miller received her Ph.D. in sociology from Bryn Mawr College. She has been conducting program evaluations for state governments and nonprofits for over 15 years. Dr. Miller serves on the board of numerous committees.

#### The Honorable Kenneth Millman

Judge Millman was appointed to the Bench of the Family Court of the State of Delaware in 1986. He serves as the liaison Judge for the Court Improvement Project and is a member of many organizations.

#### Jerry Milner

Mr. Milner is Senior Child Welfare Specialist with the Children's Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services. He is responsible for managing the Child and Family Service Reviews. He was formerly the State Child Welfare Director for the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

#### Joan Ohl

Joan E. Ohl was sworn in as Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2002. Ms. Ohl was West Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Services from 1997 to 2001. Her previous work was in the healthcare field and included serving as a board member of the West Virginia Health Care Cost Review Authority. She also worked as a consultant on medical, nutrition and children's issues in the state between 1984 and 1993. In addition, Ms. Ohl worked previously in the health-care field and held a number of positions in higher education. A hallmark of her career has been establishing new organizational structures, programs and services. Equally important, she has been actively engaged in building partnerships between the public and private sectors.

#### Nancy Pearsall

Nancy Pearsall has worked with Delaware's youth for over 25 years. She began her present assignment as Director of the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) in 2002, after three years as its Deputy Director and Acting Director. In addition, Nancy has held positions as Deputy Director for the Division of Family Services, originator of the renowned K-3 Early Intervention Program, and administrator of financial service programs with the Department of Health and Social Services.

#### The Honorable Mardi Pyott

Judge Pyott became a Judge of the Family Court in 2000. She attended the University of Delaware and received a B.A. in Political Science Education. Judge Pyott then went on to teach at Padua Academy while attending Delaware Law School at night. She clerked in New Castle and then in Kent County for Family Court after law school. Judge Pyott also worked as an associate and then a partner at Schmittinger and Rodriguez for ten years. She was the first woman to be named as a Judge in Kent County.

#### Lou Tice

Lou Tice is a masterful business leader, teacher and educator. Mr. Tice began his career as a high school teacher and football coach and that experience has led him to be one of the most highly respected educators in the world. His experience working with Fortune 1000 companies spans over 35 years.

#### John Tuell

John Tuell has been with Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) for five years and currently serves as Director for CWLA's Child Welfare-Juvenile Justice Systems Integration Initiative. Prior to accepting his position with CWLA, he served in the U.S. Department of Justice, during which time he was the Deputy Director of the State Relations and Assistance Division in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, providing managerial oversight to six grant programs, the *Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Chronic, and Violent Offenders Initiative*, and as the Manager for the *Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program*. Mr. Tuell previously worked in the Fairfax County, Virginia Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for 17 years.